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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Youth Organizations in Rumania

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1. Youth organizations exerted a very active influence on younger Rumanians. [] there was no chance for a child to escape the power of these organizations for at the age of six every youngster was forced by social pressure to enter a youth group. From then on his life was constantly shaped and forced into the direction these organizations compelled.
2. When a Rumanian child reached the age of six, he was eligible for the Pioneers (Pioneri), a youth organization whose members were from six to 14 years of age. Although membership was not automatic, it was, in practice, compulsory since a non-member would be discriminated against for the remainder of his life. For this reason, all school children joined the Pioneers, and came under the supervision of the political teacher, whose task was to indoctrinate them thoroughly in Communist theory. The Central Committee of the Pioneers was located in Bucharest, and the county organizations were directly under the Central Committee. These organizations were divided into different sectors; each sector corresponded to one school. In turn, each sector was subdivided into groups and each group corresponded to a school grade.
3. Children were taught by Pioneer teachers to report anything in their parents' conversations which was said against the State. They were repeatedly told that their highest duty was their devotion to Stalin. The Pioneer uniform consisted of black, short pants, white shirts (or black shirts), and red neck scarves. The official Pioneer periodical, "Pionerul" was published in Bucharest. Each group of Pioneers had a president, a secretary, agitators, propagandists, organizers, clarifiers (lamuritori), and newspapermen (for the wall newspaper).

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4. There was no lapse of state control over the Rumanian youth, for when he left the Pioneers at the age of 14, he was expected to join the Union of Working Youth (Uniunea Tineretului Muncitoresc - UTM) and to remain in this organization until he reached the age of 25. Again, membership was not automatic, nor officially compulsory, but to all practical effect everyone agreed with the well known saying of the officials of this organization; "You are not obligated to join us, but your conscience obligates you". This mild threat, however, would not have been enough to enforce membership had there not also been the most rigorous persecution of those people who were expected to join and refused. In spite of the fact that there was no practical alternative to joining this Union, intensive propaganda was exercised to get the desired Rumanian youth into this organization.
5. Not all youths were accepted in the UTM. First, in order to be accepted, a prospective member had to be a candidate for six months, probably to have his background investigated and his attitude scrutinized. During this period he participated in UTM activities. After the candidate had been proven reliable, (ie, free from unwelcome connections with the past, such as bourgeois and anti-State activities) and had shown himself to be a good prospective member, he was admitted into the Union of Working Youth. The new member took his oath in a secret meeting, and received the red membership booklet. This booklet, although it was carried at all times on the person, could not be shown to anyone, including authorities. The penalty for breaking this rule was dismissal from the Union. Members of the UTM were students (no one was admitted to a university unless a UTM member), industrial and white collar workers, farmers and all members of the armed forces. All UTM members paid a monthly fee (amount unknown). The Union had different periodicals, one of which was the "Young Worker", (Tanarul Muncitor), published in Bucharest, [REDACTED]

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